and the people have been assured about adequate availability of petroleum products.

(iii) Delhi Administration has issued orders on 15th February, 1991 banning sale of HSD in jerry cans/barrels or any other containers.

(iv) additionall releases of HSD have been made in January-February 1991 over and above the normal entitlement for Delhi.

(c) The country has adequate stocks of petroleum products at present.

Setting up of privately managed Engineering and Medical Colleges in States

127. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments, such as Uttar Pradesh, have decided to permit privately managed engineering and medical colleges in their respective States;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to ensure that these institutions conform to the guidelines laid down by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJ MANGAL PANDE): (a) to (c) The statutory All India Council for Technical Education AICTE) has laid down norms and guidelines for fulfilment by private technical institutions for AICTE's approval. Such proposals are required to be routed through the States concerned. Some States like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have recommended proposals from private societies for setting up new Engineering Colleges. No such proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

In view of need to control the establishment of new medical colleges legally, the Government of India have incorporated a provision in the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, now before the Parliament, that no new medical college should be established or no increase in the seats should be allowed without the prior approval of Medical Council of India and the Government of India.

Use of more coal as a source of energy

128. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose in use more coal as a source of energy in view of the shortage of petroleum products; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coal companies have been instructed to make more coal available to small users including Special Smokless Fuel plants, Briquetting units and households in order to reduce pressure on consumption of petroleum products and firewood. Some of the steps taken are as follows:—

(i) Increased despatch of coal to the thermal power stations, steel plants and cement industries

(ii) Increased supply of coal and coal based fuels to households.

(iii) Six million tonnes of coal has been offered under 'Liberalised Scale Scheme' at noticed collieries|stockyards

(iv) Additional 2 million tonnes of coal has been set aside under 'Liberalised Sale Scheme' for SSF

units, Briquetting plants, household sector.

(v) It is proposed to set up 100 more coal stockyards throughout the country, in addition to the existing ones, under the aegis of State Govts./ their agencies and CIL.

(vi) The Standing Linkage Committee (Stockyards) has been constituted to monitor among other coal linkage to the stockyards, SSF plants and Briquetting units.

Lifting of contracted Crude from Iran

129. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India could not lift the contracted crude from Iran before the outbreak of Gulf War;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the quantity of crude contracted with Iran and the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) With Iran we have contracted for import of 2.5 MMT of crude oil during the year 1990-91. Value of this Crude will be known at the end of the financial year 1990-91 only after full imports have been effected.

Policy to provide LPG facilities in the small and medium towns

130. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present policy of Government for providing LPG facilities in the small and medium towns;

(b) whether it is a fact that many small and medium towns in the country, particularly in Orissa have not been provided with LPG facility; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to open LPG agencies at these places?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) As per the existing policy, LPG distributorships are being introduced in a phased manner, in towns/cities with a population of 20,000 and above (as per 1981 census) subject to viable marketing and overall product availability.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) New distributorships at viable locations would be set up in a phased manner keeping in mind the overall product availability, which is being augmented through enhanced indegenious production and imports

Losses to Air India

131. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to improve the profitability of Air India as it has started incurring losses;

(b) what is the approximate daily/ monthly loss of Air India at present and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action plan is proposed in order to make up the loss; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) to (d) Air Inlia has been adversely affected by the Gulf crisis alongwith other international carriers. The airline is incurring higher costs on account of fuel and insurance charges. The airline has also lost traffic on account of the curtailment of its operations to the Gulf countries. It is expected that the Gulf crisis would